

SITUATION REPORT NO. 23
INCIDENT NO. 99-009
DATE: July 6, 1999 TIME: 4:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Storms and flooding – Above normal soil moisture content throughout North Dakota, compounded by seven years of flooding and additional precipitation, has resulted in overland, river and flash flooding and ground movement (landslides and mudslides). Excessive high winds associated with storm and tornado activity have contributed to ongoing problems faced by North Dakotans.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: Cass County officials reported that some area residents suffered minor cuts and scrapes during a July 4 storm.
3. DAMAGES: Preliminary estimates indicate that storms with winds in excess of 90 miles per hour (mph) on July 4 caused more than \$30 million in structural damage to homes and businesses in West Fargo and the West Acres area of Fargo. Cass County Emergency Management staff reported that more than 50,000 people were without power when power substations and transmission lines, from Casselton east to Fargo, were damaged. Power companies restored the majority of power, but one of two substations for Northern States Power (NSP) is still down. A few customers remain without power. A Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad trailer train was toppled by winds 10 miles west of West Fargo. The train had small amounts of hazardous material on board, but nothing had spilled. Winds also damaged aircraft hangars at the Air National Guard and the local airport, as well as private airplanes, including one owned by the N.D. Civil Air Patrol. Several roadways and streets had been closed due to downed trees, power lines and other debris. Winds also caused an estimated \$30,000 in damage to farm dwellings and \$50,000 to farm structures, the Cass County U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Emergency Board has reported. Debris clean-up from private and public property is expected to take a couple of weeks.

Hail, high winds and rain during two storms on July 3 damaged gardens, fields and trees in Morton County, to include the cities of Mandan, Glen Ullin, Hebron and New Salem. Golfball-sized hail fell in five miles south of Hebron and north of New Salem. Mandan received quarter-sized hail, while pea-sized hail fell in the cities of Glen Ullin and Hebron. One-half inch of rain was also reported in the Glen Ullin and Hebron areas.

A recent Farm Service Agency report indicated that 3.2 million acres – 16 percent of the state's farmland – remain unplanted this year because of wet conditions. Continuing wet weather patterns endanger production from planted acreage through an increase in disease and insect pests, the N.D. Department of Agriculture has reported.

Damaging winds and hail during storms that moved across the state on June 25-26 resulted in a 10 to 30 percent loss of yield to 38,000 acres of hay and small grains in Bowman County, the local USDA Emergency Board has reported.

In neighboring Adams County, producers reported a 35 to 50 percent loss of yield for 324,395 acres during the June 25-26 storm. The local USDA board placed damages to farm buildings at \$225,000 and \$100,000 for farm machinery and equipment damages.

In Morton County, large trees were destroyed and extensive damage occurred to buildings in the St. Anthony area during the June 25-26 storm. The roof of a church was torn off, and a school building damaged. A rolled semi-tractor-trailer caught fire. Six towers on a Basin Electric transmission line were destroyed, and four others were damaged. In Huff, larger trees were also damaged or destroyed, as were grain bins. Extensive damage occurred at the Graner Park area when high winds tipped over campers. New Salem officials reported that a residential propane tank caught fire, and trees were damaged. In Mandan, extensive damage occurred to building roofs, and large trees were damaged or destroyed. Motorists who attempted to drive on flooded streets abandoned their stalled vehicles. Traffic was rerouted because roads were either flooded or blocked by debris and downed power lines. Electricity was not restored to some areas in Morton County until June 27.

On June 25-26, high winds in Kidder County caused an estimated \$1.75 million in damages to 200 farm buildings and \$700,000 in farm machinery and equipment. High winds also toppled 51 high current power poles along N.D. Highway 3, stranding one motorist and causing a temporary traffic detour until the downed poles were removed from the highway. High winds also shifted or moved homes from their foundations, uprooted trees and damaged roofs, storage buildings and animal shelters. Northern Kidder County residents were without power for approximately 24 hours. Impacted areas include Tuttle, Lake Williams, Pettibone, Steele and Tappen.

Straight-line winds in excess of 100 miles per hour (mph) caused an estimated \$10 million in damages to 400 farm dwellings in Foster County during the June 25-26 storm. Damages to 250 farm structures, to include grain bins, totaled \$5.1 million, and farm machinery and equipment damages amounted to \$1 million.

Cavalier County officials estimated that floodwaters have damaged three bridges in three townships, caused 21 washouts of culverts in 10 southwestern townships and inundated six road sites. Floodwaters have also eroded three county road sites and 30 roadways and saturated roadbeds in 10 townships and the village of Calio. A tornado on June 6 damaged a home in East Alma Township. In the city

of Langdon, high water tables and excessive precipitation have damaged sewer lines, manholes and rip-rap along the lagoon dikes. Seven city storm sewers have collapsed, and one culvert has washed out and rusted. Five blocks of storm sewer have been unable to handle the influx of precipitation.

Stutsman County agriculture officials report that a June 23 storm, characterized by high winds and rain, caused \$1.2 million in damages to 200 farm dwellings, including elevators at Kensal and Woodworth. Fifty farm structures, such as dams and silos, sustained \$750,000 in damages.

During a June 21 storm in Sargent County, up to three inches of rain fell in the central portion of the county within a one-hour time period. Hail that accompanied the storm damaged crops. Lightning struck a house, causing damages to electrical appliances and a small fire in the attic. High winds and hail damaged siding and skirting on two homes.

Devils Lake at Creel Bay continues its rise, measuring 1,447.10 feet on July 6.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Federal voluntary agency coordinators met June 29 in Fargo with state coordinators for Lutheran Disaster Response, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Salvation Army, American Red Cross and North Dakota Community Action. Items discussed included assistance that may be provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Individual and Family Grant Program, managed by North Dakota Emergency Management.

The American Red Cross opened a shelter in the West Acres area of Fargo during the July 4 storm.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Gov. Ed Schafer has announced that the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program is available to North Dakota residents in 34 counties and three Indian reservations that have been declared federal disaster areas. Individuals who are totally or partially unemployed due to disaster-related damages may be eligible for DUA payments. Claims must be made by July 21. DUA is a federal program that provides jobless payments to individuals who are not eligible for state unemployment benefits. Those who may be eligible include self-employed individuals, business owners, farmers, farm workers and migrant farm workers.

Federal, state and local inspection teams have conducted preliminary damage assessments (PDA) for Individual Assistance (IA) and Public Assistance (PA) in

Burke, Cavalier, Divide, Eddy, Morton, Sioux and Williams Counties. A PDA for IA only was conducted in Mercer County.

The Federal Highway Administration has authorized \$9 million in federal emergency relief (ER) funds for about 100 state and county road projects in flooded areas, the N.D. Department of Transportation has reported. Federal ER funds are authorized to repair damage to the federal-aid highway system resulting from a natural disaster.

The State Coordinating Officer received notification FEMA has approved \$371,261 in funding for the Immediate Services Crisis Counseling Program for disaster victims. The N.D. Department of Human Services administers the program.

The N.D. National Air Guard placed two generators on standby to the city of West Fargo for possible use at lift stations after the July 4 storm. The generators were not needed.

Staff for the N.D. State Electrical Board assisted with electrical inspections last month after flash flooding occurred during a June 6 storm in the Garrison area of McLean County. Utility companies shut off power to 91 homes where water was above valves.

Staff from the North Dakota Agricultural Mediation Service (NDAMS) has been assisting producers with paperwork related to disaster recovery. Producers encountering financial or credit difficulties are encouraged to call the NDAMS toll-free hotline, (800) 642-4752.

Morton County officials partially activated their Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during the June 25-26 storm. Mandan Public Works and Morton County Highway Department staffs removed debris from streets and roads.

During a June 29 community meeting, citizens of Churchs Ferry and Minnewaukan discussed options for addressing problems posed by a rising Devils Lake. Options discussed include: building a dike; rerouting U.S. Highway 281 around the town to the east, thereby creating a dike; buyout of properties incrementally as the water rises; and use of buyouts and other funding to finance a planned relocation. An after-action report capturing citizen discussions is being prepared.

The Cavalier and Morton County Commissions have issued disaster declarations. Officials for the cities of Goodrich in Sheridan County and Kensal in Stutsman County have issued disaster declarations. To date, 42 counties, 32 cities and four Indian reservations have issued flood or storm emergency or disaster declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Assistance has been provided, as reported
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: FEMA, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Red Cross, consulting engineers, N.D. DOT and members of the N.D. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).
9. OTHER: The next Devils Lake State Flood Coordination Center meeting has been scheduled for 1:30 p.m., July 22, at the Ramsey County Courthouse basement meeting room.

Situation Reports published by the N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet Home page. The address is:
<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director